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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 24 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you today to draw your attention to the serious deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, on all fronts owing to the illegal policies and aggression being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, and its illegal extremist settlers against the Palestinian people. We condemn in the strongest terms the recent military attacks by the Israeli occupying forces against the Gaza Strip and the continued perpetration of terror and destruction by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. We call on the international community to act responsibly to address this very serious situation which is deepening the already grave human rights crisis being endured by the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

Over the past two days, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to launch air strikes against civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, causing casualties and property destruction. Israeli occupying forces have launched missiles at areas in both the northern and southern parts of Gaza, including Beit Lahiya, Rafah and Khan Younis, deliberately targeting persons for death and spreading terror and fear among the civilian population. These recent Israeli attacks have killed four Palestinians and reports indicate that more Palestinians may have been killed in these brutal attacks. The names of those killed thus far are Ismail Issa Al-Tilli (26), Mohammed Al-Sheikh (32), Loai Abed Al-Hakeem (24) and Youssef Mahmoud Abu Jalhoum (27), who died of his wounds sustained yesterday, 23 October 2012. Moreover, these latest Israeli airstrikes injured at least a dozen other Palestinians, some of whom were critically wounded.

Recent threats made by the Israeli Prime Minister and other Israeli officials for more extensive military attacks against the Gaza Strip are exacerbating tensions and worries among the Palestinian people. Such threats of use of force should also be cause for alarm in the international community, including the Security Council in line

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with its Charter duty to maintain peace and security. We stress that the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza remains extremely vulnerable and in need of protection, to which it is entitled in accordance with international humanitarian law, particularly in light of the threats for more Israeli attacks.

Moreover, we must recall that the Palestinian people in Gaza are still, to this day, suffering from the trauma and negative repercussions of the major Israeli military aggression perpetrated against Gaza nearly four years ago before the eyes of the international community and from the vastly detrimental effects of Israel's ongoing blockade. In this regard, we recognize the continuing efforts of the international community, including international activists and civil society, in solidarity and support of the Palestinian people in Gaza enduring this unjust, inhumane blockade. We strongly condemn the recent seizure of the civilian boat, the MV *Estelle*, which had been sailing to Gaza to provide humanitarian aid to our people, and we condemn the violent, forced capture and detention of the international activists on-board and call for the immediate release of those still in Israeli captivity.

We must also call attention to the need for protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, who remain vulnerable to acts of terror, intimidation and destruction by armed, extremist Israeli settlers, in addition to the regular military raids carried out by the occupying forces in Palestinian towns and villages. In the recent period, such Israeli settler actions included more attacks on Palestinian farmers, including those trying to harvest their olives; the burning and uprooting of trees; the dumping of waste water from the illegal settlement of "Betar Illit" onto agricultural lands in the village of Nahalin, west of Bethlehem, damaging olive, grape and almond crops; the spraying of racist slogans of incitement on a Palestinian home and the burning of a vehicle in the village of Abu Al-A'sja, south of Al-Khalil; the seizure of 10 dunums of privately owned Palestinian land in the Qarout village, south of Nablus; and the assault of a Palestinian man by four settlers at a gas station near Bethlehem.

Of course, at the same time, Israel continues and intensifies its illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law and violation of United Nations resolutions. Once again, the Israeli Prime Minister is making provocative declarations regarding Israel's intentions to flagrantly continue pursuing this illegitimate campaign, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the occupying Power's attempts to alter the demographic composition, character and status of the Territory have been most fervent.

Last week, Israel declared its intention to expand the illegal settlement of "Gilo", located between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem, by another 797 units, with the Prime Minister boasting about Israel's illegal plans in this regard. This expansion, if undertaken, would deepen the separation and isolation of East Jerusalem, the heart of the Palestinian State, from the rest of its natural Palestinian environs, clearly part of a deliberate colonization scheme by the occupying Power. And just today it was reported that Israel plans to construct 90 new housing units in the West Bank settlement of "Beit El" near Ramallah through a so-called deal made with illegal Israeli settlers in return for a "quiet evacuation" of the nearby "Ulpana" outpost. These latest decisions must be condemned and the international community must demand that Israel rescind such decisions and cease all such illegal actions. Moreover, Israel's ongoing cynical attempts to "legitimize" settlements must also be totally and firmly rejected by the international community.

At the same time, part and parcel of Israel's illegal colonization has been its destruction and confiscation of Palestinian property, which has also continued. Just recently, the occupying forces demolished, inter alia, several agricultural facilities, wells and sheds in the town of Idna, west of Al-Khalil; demolished a water well and handed out demolition notices for several Palestinian homes in Wadi al-Ghorus, east of Al-Khalil; and destroyed five artesian water wells and a spring in the village of Kufr Dan, east of Jenin, causing further harm to the Palestinian land, further exploitation of Palestinian natural resources, and further impairment of Palestinian livelihoods and access to water.

We condemn all of these illegal, provocative actions by Israel, the occupying Power, in our land. We reiterate once again that Israel's construction and expansion of settlements and settlement "outposts" and its construction of the Wall on confiscated Palestinian land are destroying the contiguity and integrity of the Palestinian Territory, destroying the viability of the two-State solution and thus destroying the prospects for the resumption of the peace process for the achievement of a final peace agreement. The international community has a political and moral responsibility to prevent this from happening and must act to uphold international law and its own demands on Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, immediately and completely, and to abide by its legal obligations and international commitments, including under the Quartet road map.

The duties of the international community, including the Security Council, are clear and must be respected and upheld. The situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is critical and the human rights situation under the Israeli occupation is severe. The Palestinian people and their leadership continue to look to the international community to urgently take the necessary stand and action to bring a halt to Israel's flagrant impunity and its violations and aggression against our people and our land. We remain convinced that international action is imperative for sending the proper message to Israel, the occupying Power, that its transgressions of the law and United Nations resolutions will no longer be tolerated and that it will be held accountable and must abide by international law, just like all other Member States, without exception.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 435 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 October 2012 (A/ES-10/563-S/2012/747), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nadya **Rasheed**
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

United Nations A/ES-10/565–S/2012/798

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Security Council

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2 November 2012

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 1 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, continues its illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, further denigrating the viability of the two-State solution and proving once again its total rejection of international law and the international consensus regarding the basis for a just and peaceful settlement.

Following the recent Israeli declarations regarding plans to expand the illegal settlement of "Gilo", located between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem, by another 797 units, plans have been revealed for the construction of yet another new settlement. The Israeli non-governmental organization Peace Now has reported that the Israeli Government has authorized the construction of this new settlement, which will comprise at least 180 units and is to be constructed in an area near Sur Baher, south of Occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, last week the Israeli Government announced the intention to construct another 607 units in the settlement of "Pisgat Zeev" in northern Occupied East Jerusalem.

At the same time, illegal settler "outposts" also continue to be constructed throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with the knowledge and support of the Israeli Government. Two new settler "outposts" have been established, one in an area north-west of Ramallah and one in an area north of Qalqilya. Mobile homes have been erected in both areas and they have been connected to infrastructure, electricity, water lines and access roads. The continued establishment of "outposts" and the appeasement of settlers by the Israeli Government, regardless of the demolition orders that the Government claims have been issued, are a further indication of Israel's ongoing attempts to so-call legitimize settlement outposts. At the same time, extremist settlers continue to rampage through the Palestinian Territory, attacking Palestinian civilians and their properties. One of the most recent incidents in this regard involved an assault by settlers on Palestinian farmers,

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including an elderly man, who were harvesting olives, in the village of Jeit, east of Qalqilya.

In addition, Israel, the occupying Power, has persisted with the illegal practice of home demolitions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, 1 November, the occupying forces demolished a house in the West Bank village of Anata, located north-east of East Jerusalem. This is the sixth time that the house was destroyed after being rebuilt by volunteers this past summer following the last demolition on 23 January 2012. In this regard, it must be reaffirmed that all such wilful destruction of civilian property constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, for which the occupying Power must be held fully responsible.

We condemn all of these deliberate, provocative and unlawful measures by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at advancing its illegal colonization schemes and entrenching its illegitimate occupation. These actions, which are clearly aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory, are further impairing its contiguity, integrity and unity, deepening the separation and isolation of East Jerusalem, and making the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders even more remote. In this regard, the international community, including the Security Council, has a responsibility to uphold international law and hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of its violations. Only such serious action and resolve by the international community can help to salvage the two-State solution and the prospects for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace and security.

At this time, I must also draw your attention to the fact that Israel continues to launch air strikes and other military assaults against the Gaza Strip. On Sunday, 28 October, the Israeli occupying forces launched an attack by war planes that killed a Palestinian man, Suleiman Qarra, age 27, in the town of Khan Younis and also caused property damage. In addition, Palestinian fishermen continue to be targeted by Israel naval gunboat attacks, threatening their safety, their lives and their livelihoods. In this regard, Fahmi Abu Riash, a 22-year-old Palestinian fishermen, sadly lost his life on 28 September 2012, after Israeli forces directly fired at him while he was in his fishing boat just metres from the shore in the northern Gaza Strip, bringing an end to his young life and an end to the livelihood of his family.

For all of these violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held responsible. The international community, including the Security Council, must no longer tolerate such deliberate breaches of the Charter of the United Nations, relevant resolutions and instruments of international law, which are causing great hardship and suffering for the Palestinian people and destroying the chances for peace between Palestine and Israel and in the region as a whole. Urgent action is required to rectify this unjust and dangerous situation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 436 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 October 2012 (A/ES-10/564-S/2012/788) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel,

the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/566–S/2012/829

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 12 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Tensions are rising and the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is being markedly destabilized by Israeli acts of aggression against the Palestinian civilian population. In grave breach of international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to deliberately launch military attacks against civilian areas, causing loss of life, injury and destruction of civilian homes and properties. The international community, especially the Security Council, cannot remain silent or complacent as Israel continues to wreak death, destruction and terror on the Palestinian people under its military occupation.

The recent period has witnessed the continuation of Israeli air strikes and bombardment, with the occupying forces launching missiles, artillery shells and gunfire at civilian areas in the northern, central and southern parts of the besieged Gaza Strip. The latest escalation began on Thursday, 8 November 2012, when Israeli occupying forces fired at a civilian area in the Abassan village, east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, striking a Palestinian child, who was playing football with his friends in front of his family home. The young boy, Ahmed Younis Khader Abu Daqqa, age 13, suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen and died minutes later.

Israel's military strikes continued into Saturday, 10 November, and Sunday, 11 November, killing six more Palestinians and injuring more than 40 other civilians, including women and children. On Saturday, Israeli artillery bombardments targeted a football playground at Al-Mentar Hill in Al-Shuja'iya neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, killing two children, Mohammed Usama Hassan Harara, age 16, and Ahmed Mustafa Khaled Harara, age 17, and also killing Ahmed Kamel Al-Derdsawi, age 18, and Matar Imad Abdul Rahman Abu Al-Ata, age 19. On Sunday, Israeli warplanes launching strikes against the Jabaliya area of northern Gaza, killed Mohammed Fuad Obeid, age 20, and Mohammed Said Shkoukani,

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age 28. These lethal Israeli attacks also caused destruction to Palestinian civilian properties, including a poultry farm, brick factory, plastics factory and metal workshop, further decimating industry and livelihoods in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The escalation in Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people also included the intensification of its illegal colonization campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Last week, the Israeli Government submitted tenders for the construction of another 1,285 settlement units, with the bulk of this unlawful activity centred on Occupied East Jerusalem, where Israeli measures to alter the demographic composition and Palestinian-Arab, Muslim and Christian character and identity of the City is most fierce. The plans in this regard entail the construction of another 607 units in the illegal "Pisgat Zeev" settlement and 606 units in the illegal "Ramot" settlement in Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as another 72 units in the illegal "Ariel" settlement, the fourth largest Israeli settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, built deep in the West Bank near Nablus, 17 km east of the 1967 border. Such plans are yet further proof of Israel's rejection of the two-State solution and its active efforts to render that solution totally meaningless and untenable on the ground.

Further, the Israeli Defense Minister today declared the "authorization" of another 538 settlement units in the illegal settlement of "Itamar". This is just the latest in a series of such reckless, provocative announcements regarding illegal settlement activities routinely made by Israeli officials, from the Prime Minister and downwards. Indeed, just today, reports were published quoting Israel's Finance Minister as stating: "During the current Government's term, we doubled the budgets [allocated] to 'Judea and Samaria'. We did it with a low profile, in agreement with the mayors." Clearly, Israel isn't shy about touting its systematic war crimes (see Rome Statute, article 8 (2) (b) (viii)) against the Palestinian people, especially the obsession with building illegal settlements.

It is also clear that the Israeli Government continues to allow the lawlessness of the hundreds of thousands of settlers it has illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, obviously fostering their ill-behaviour with its vulgar intransigence and impunity. In recent days, Israeli settlers continued their reign of terror, causing destruction to Palestinian property and trauma to Palestinian families. This included the uprooting of yet another 100 olive trees in the village of Al-Sawya, south of the city of Nablus, and the spraying of racist graffiti, such as "Death to Arabs" and "Price Tag" on homes in the area. It has also included an attempt by Israeli settlers to burn down a Palestinian home in Bethlehem, where in the dead of night, at 2.30 a.m., a gang of settler terrorists sprayed graffiti and poured gasoline on the house and were only prevented from committing this crime by Palestinian residents in the neighbourhood who forcibly stopped them from lighting the house on fire.

All of these deliberate violations by Israel of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, are indicative of the path that it has chosen to follow: one of aggression, colonization and destruction, rather than one of peace, stability and coexistence. The situation is clear and it is one that requires the international community to take a stand for peace, for international law, and for the protection and rights of the Palestinian civilian population that is so gravely suffering under Israel's more than 45-year military occupation. The international

community, including the Security Council, cannot continue to fail to act to hold Israel accountable for its flagrant breaches of the law. Continued failure will only further embolden the occupying Power, bolstering its impunity and hastening its destruction of the two-State solution for peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 437 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 November 2012 (A/ES-10/565-S/2012/798) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 14 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, is escalating its military campaign against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip. This has included the perpetration of extrajudicial killings in targeted military strikes causing loss of life and destruction. In this regard, the occupying Power is publicly boasting about the wilful killing of Palestinians and its plans to carry out more crimes of this sort. This escalation, which continues to this moment, demands the attention of the international community, including the Security Council, with the aim of averting the further deterioration and destabilization of the situation on the ground and the fuelling by Israel of yet another deadly cycle of violence and bloodshed.

Today, Israel, the occupying Power, launched a missile air strike in a deliberate, targeted attack that killed a Palestinian, Ahmed Al-Jaabari, a leader of Hamas, as well as Mohammed Al-Hams, who was riding in the car with him in the Al-Shuja'iya neighbourhood east of Gaza City. An official spokesman for Israel proudly claimed credit for this cold-blooded extrajudicial killing, pursuant to rising threats the occupying Power has been making against the Palestinian people and their leadership. Moreover, the official declared that this was the first of such assassinations and that many more will follow. We condemn these illegal, criminal actions and condemn such provocative declarations and incitement by the occupying Power, which are aimed at fomenting violence and tensions between the two sides and intimidating and terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population.

In addition to this extrajudicial killing, Israel has launched at least 20 other missile air strikes against civilian areas in Gaza, attacking areas in the Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun, Khan Younis and Al-Zeitoun neighbourhoods of Gaza City. At the present moment, these attacks have resulted in the killing of at least six Palestinians, including a 7-year-old girl, Renan Arafat, and the injury of at least 30 other Palestinians, including women and children, many critically wounded and struggling

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to survive these lethal, indiscriminate attacks by Israel. In this regard, another Palestinian man, Muhammad Zeyad Abdullah Qanoun, age 20, died yesterday from critical wounds sustained on Saturday, 10 November, from Israeli tank fire bombardment.

The situation in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is also deteriorating as a result of Israel's excessive use of force and other illegal practices against the Palestinian civilian population. In cities across the West Bank, several Palestinians have been injured by the Israeli occupying forces, who continue to use excessive force against civilians, including those taking part in non-violent, peaceful demonstrations against Israel's oppression.

Today, Palestinian youth rallies were held in the cities of Qalqilya, Ramallah, Nablus and Al-Khalil to commemorate the anniversary of the 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence and to call for an end to the Israeli occupation. Youth and other Palestinians, joined by international activists, were non-violently marching, chanting and blocking Israeli-only bypass roads that link Israel's vast, illegal settlement network in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. At least six people were wounded by the Israeli occupying forces, who unleashed excessive force, including tear gas and sound bombs, against the demonstrators. We condemn such brutality by the occupying Power, which is wholly reliant on force, terror and criminal actions to entrench its illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian land and subjugation of the Palestinian people.

The current escalation resulting from Israel's aggression, violence and other unlawful measures warrants the immediate attention of the international community, including in particular the Security Council. A direct message must be sent to Israel to cease its military campaign against the Palestinian people under its occupation, including cessation of the crime of extrajudicial killing. Moreover, action must be undertaken to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in order to prevent the death and suffering of yet more innocent civilians.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 438 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 November 2012 (A/ES-10/566-S/2012/829) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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16 November 2012

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 15 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my letters to you dated 12 November (A/ES-10/566-S/2012/829) and 14 November 2012 (A/ES-10/567-S/2012/839), and in follow-up to our statement and appeal to the Security Council at its emergency meeting yesterday evening to act to stop Israel's carnage against the Palestinian people, it is my deep regret to inform you that the occupying Power continues its latest military aggression against the Gaza Strip. Palestinian civilian casualties continue to rise as a result of this brutal and unlawful Israeli onslaught, which continues to the present moment.

Israeli war planes have continued to launch missile air strikes against several civilian areas in the Gaza Strip throughout the day and night, bringing life to a standstill and deepening fear and panic among the already traumatized Palestinian civilian population. The attacks by the occupying Power have been widespread and lethal, striking many homes, a police station, agricultural land and other civilian infrastructure in areas all over the Gaza Strip. Since my letter to you dated 14 November, another 8 Palestinians have been killed and more than 130 injured, including 17 women, 25 children and 11 elderly persons. Among the dead in the past two attacks were two infants and a toddler: an 11-month-old boy, Omar Jehad Al-Mashharawi, who was killed in an Israeli attack on Wednesday, 14 November; a 10-month-old girl, Haneen Tafesh, who died of wounds sustained following an Israeli strike on her family's home also on Wednesday; and a 2-year-old boy, Mahmoud Waleed Abadli, who died of wounds sustained following a missile strike east of Khan Younis.

In addition to these three tragic deaths and to the casualties reported in my letter dated 14 November, the following Palestinians have lost their lives to Israel's senseless brutality: Mohammed Hani Kaseeh (age 18), Essam Mahmoud Abu Al-Me'za (age 19), Heba Adel Al-Mashharawi (age 19), Mahmoud Abu Sawaween (age 65), Marwan Abu Al-Qamsan (age 50), Khaled Abu Nasir, Rani Hammad,

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Hisham Mohammed Al-Ghalban (age 25), Wael Haider Al-Ghalban (age 28) and Habes Hassan Mesmeh.

The situation on the ground is critical. The continuing threats by Israel, the occupying Power, to persist and intensify this insane, inhumane military aggression against the Palestinian people are raising the spectre of even more loss of innocent civilian lives. The mobilization of Israeli occupying forces on the ground, including the amassing of tanks, trucks, armoured vehicles and buses near the Gaza border are cause for serious concern and demand the attention of the international community, which must act to avert the further deterioration of this crisis.

We thus reiterate our urgent appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and to act now to protect the Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation, in accordance with international humanitarian law. Indeed, what is being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people constitutes a grave breach of all norms of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the wilful killing of civilians and prohibits reprisals against the civilian population by the occupying Power. War crimes are clearly being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people and this must be unequivocally condemned and stopped.

The Palestinian leadership reiterates its call for the exertion of all necessary efforts by the international community to bring the bloodshed of our people in the Gaza Strip to a halt. A strong message must be sent to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately its military campaign in order to de-escalate this dangerous situation, promote calm and, most important, save innocent civilian lives.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 439 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 November 2012 (A/ES-10/567-S/2012/839), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 17 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to convey to you our alarm regarding the rapid deterioration on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel, the occupying Power, continues its military campaign against the Gaza Strip, wreaking ever more havoc, death and destruction among the Palestinian civilian population. We condemn in the strongest terms these Israeli military attacks and the continued perpetration of State terror against the Palestinian people.

Since my last letter to you, on 15 November 2012, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to carry out aerial bombings and missile strikes targeting hundreds of locations throughout the Gaza Strip. Reports at this moment are that at least 47 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the Israeli military campaign against our people on 12 November 2012. In addition, this lethal campaign has caused injury to at least 425 other Palestinians, some of whom are critically wounded and struggling for their lives.

The casualties have tragically included many children, women and elderly persons and many members of the same families. In this regard, many of the injured have succumbed to their wounds, and the survivors are suffering gravely in this besieged part of our homeland, where medicines are in short supply and proper medical equipment is either completely dilapidated or absent owing to the inhumane, illegal blockade that continues to be imposed by Israel in defiance of international law and the demands of the international community to immediately lift it.

Israel's air strikes and bombardment have included the deliberate targeting of homes in residential civilian areas, including refugee camps, in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, public property and infrastructure, including government buildings, police stations and a football stadium, are being attacked. Massive destruction is once again being wrought by Israel in Gaza through the use of all military means available to the occupying Power.

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There can be no doubt that Israel, the occupying Power, is committing grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is wholly applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The wilful killing of civilians and the deliberate destruction of civilian properties constitute war crimes, for which Israel must be held accountable. Moreover, Israel's actions are in direct violation of numerous provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and in gross, systematic violation of the international human rights covenants, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For all of these crimes against the Palestinian people, Israel must be held fully accountable and justice must be achieved for the victims. The failure to do so will only embolden Israel in its sense of impunity, further exacerbating the conflict and perpetuating the suffering of the Palestinian people under this illegitimate occupation. The consequences of this on the human rights situation of our people, the prospects for realization of the two-State solution and a comprehensive peace settlement, and the prospects for peace and security in our region are grave.

We thus once again urgently call on the international community to act collectively and responsibly to address this crisis. The duties of the international community, including the Security Council, are clear and must be respected and upheld. International law, including humanitarian and human rights law, must be upheld and must not be allowed to be so flagrantly dismissed without consequence. Immediate action must be undertaken, particularly by the Security Council in accordance with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, to bring a halt to Israel's military onslaught against the Palestinian people and to douse the flames of this most recent, deadly cycle of violence that has already claimed too many innocent civilian lives, for whom we deeply mourn.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 440 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 November 2012 (A/ES-10/568-S/2012/846), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/570–S/2012/854

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 19 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

While the Security Council remains paralysed, unable to speak or act with one voice, the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory rages on. With unbridled impunity, Israel, the occupying Power, is intensifying military assaults against the Gaza Strip, killing, wounding and maiming Palestinian civilians, including babies, children, women, men and elderly persons. The Palestinian death toll continues to rise. At least 102 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces and more than 850 people, hundreds of them children, have been injured in this latest military campaign.

Israeli war planes continue to deliberately target densely populated civilian areas in Gaza, with more than 1,300 missile strikes reportedly carried out in the past week in addition to artillery bombardment of civilian areas, including several refugee camps. War crimes are being perpetrated by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population in broad daylight. Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention defines grave breaches as, inter alia, the wilful killing and inhuman treatment of protected persons, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of protected persons, and extensive destruction of property unlawfully and wantonly, all of which are being perpetrated by Israel. These are war crimes and this is State terrorism.

Innocent children are being killed in their homes and in the streets, and houses are being destroyed atop entire families. Among the many brutally killed by Israel in the past 48 hours in Gaza are the following children:

Tamer Salameh Abu Esei'fan, age 3

Joumana Salameh Abu Esei'fan, age 1

Eyad Abu Khusa, age 18 months

Tasneem Zuheir Al-Nahhal, age 9

Mohammed Eyad Abu Zour, age 5

Rama Al-Shandi, age 1

Mo'men Suheil Hamada, age 15 (who was killed with his father, Suheil Hamada)

Hussein Jalal Nasser, age 8 (who was killed with his father, Jalal Nasser)

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Further, 11 members of one family, the Al-Dalou family, were massacred by an Israeli air assault on the Al-Nasr neighborhood in Gaza City that struck their home. At this time, one child of the family also remains missing under the rubble. The dead are:

Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Dalou, age 1

Jamal Mohammed Al-Dalou, age 7

Sarah Mohammed Al-Dalou, age 7

Yousef Mohammed Al-Dalou, age 10

Ranin Mohammed Al-Dalou, age 5

Samah Al-Dalou, age 25

Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou

Tahani Al-Dalou, age 46

Sulafa Al-Dalou, age 50

Abdullah Al-Mzanner, age 23

Amina Matar Al-Mzanner, age 83

We ask the international community: what crime did these infants and children commit? What crimes were committed by their parents, many of whom died while trying desperately to protect their children? Why are they being targeted for death by Israel, the occupying Power? They committed no crimes. They are innocent and they and their families have lived the entirety of their lives under Israel's illegitimate military occupation and cruel blockade, never knowing a moment of human security, peace or dignity in this tortured existence of life under Israeli oppression.

At this moment, Israel's air assaults continue, with attacks today on Gaza City's Al-Zeitoun neighborhood killing another three people, including Ahed Al-Qattaty, age 38, who has left behind a pregnant wife, 5 young daughters and a son, and killed a 2-year-old boy. Journalists are also being directly targeted. Panic and trauma are spreading among the Palestinian civilian population, who are denied the protection to which they are entitled under international humanitarian law, as Israel wreaks death, destruction and terror on Gaza once again.

Israeli reprisals against the Palestinian people are also occurring in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where the occupying forces continue to use excessive force against civilians, causing death and injury and further destabilizing the situation. Such force has been unleashed against non-violent protestors in the West Bank demonstrating in solidarity with their besieged brethren in Gaza. Among the victims of this Israeli brutality are Najeeb Ahmed Najeeb, a 20-month-old baby, who died of tear gas burns sustained at Qaladiya checkpoint near Ramallah, and Rashad Al-Tamimi, who died of wounds sustained yesterday when he was struck at a protest in Nabi Saleh near Ramallah. Also, there are reports of live ammunition being used by the occupying forces against Palestinian protestors in Al-Khalil.

The international community cannot justify remaining on the sidelines while the crisis, particularly in the Gaza Strip, continues to escalate and civilians continue to die. Israel, the occupying Power, must be demanded to immediately cease this military campaign against the Palestinian people. The Security Council must uphold its Charter duties for this crisis is clearly of relevance to international peace and security. We also underscore the importance of the appeals made by the Secretary-General, on behalf of the United Nations, for the protection of civilian life and the importance of his visit to the region in this context, as well as the importance of the efforts being exerted by other concerned parties, especially Egypt, to bring an end to the violence and suffering.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 441 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 November 2012 (A/ES-10/569-S/2012/852) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/571–S/2012/866

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 20 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its deadly military assaults against the Gaza Strip. On this seventh day since the start of the latest Israeli aggression, reports from the ground indicate that more than 140 Palestinians have been killed, including many children, and more than 950 people have been injured. Grave breaches of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and human rights law are being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation.

Despite the ongoing efforts to achieve a ceasefire, Israel has intensified this brutal military campaign, targeting civilian areas in the northern, central and southern Gaza Strip with no regard for civilian life. Several refugee camps, including Al-Bureij, Jabaliya Al-Shatei' and Al-Nuseirat, have been targeted by Israeli missile strikes. In addition to the killing of innocent civilians, Israel continues to deliberately and wantonly destroy Palestinian property, including homes and refugee shelters, displacing hundreds of Palestinian civilians yet again. In events reminiscent of the criminal Israeli military aggression of December 2008 and January 2009 against Gaza, traumatized and frightened Palestinian families are once again seeking refuge from the onslaught in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East schools.

Families continue to suffer multiple tragedies as a result of this Israeli aggression, deepening the trauma and fear that has gripped the Palestinian civilian population. An Israeli missile airstrike yesterday on Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip killed a family of four: Fuad Hijazi, the father, Amna Hijazi, the mother, and their twin sons, Suhaib and Mohammed, age four. Twelve other civilians were also wounded in that attack. Two teenage brothers, Ahmed Tawfiq Al-Nasasra, age 17, and Mohammed Tawfiq Al-Nasasra, age 15, were also killed in an Israeli assault on the Rafah area late yesterday, which also resulted in the serious wounding of 14 other people. In another attack near Rafah, two brothers, Abed Abu Mour,

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age 24, and Khalid Abu Mour, were also killed. Today, an airstrike by the Israeli occupying forces on Deir Al-Balah killed Salim Ayish Abu Sitta and his brother Mohammed, and a missile airstrike on two cars in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City resulted in the killing of Subhi Dughmush, Salah Dughmush and Ahmad Dughmush, along with three other Palestinians who have not yet been identified. Also among those killed was a physically disabled man, Mohammed Zeidan, who was killed in an Israeli strike on an agricultural area near Al-Nuseirat refugee camp.

The Israeli occupying forces have also continued to deliberately target media premises and journalists in Gaza. Today, three Palestinian journalists were killed in two separate attacks: Mohammed Musa Abu-Aisha, Director of Al-Quds Educational Broadcasting, was killed in a strike on Deir Al-Balah, and two cameramen for Al-Aqsa TV, Hussam Salameh and Mahmoud Al-Koomi, were killed in an Israeli assault on Al-Nasr neighbourhood in north-west Gaza City.

Palestinian casualties also continued to be caused by Israel in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as lethal weaponry and excessive force continue to be used against civilians, including demonstrators. Yesterday, in the Bir Al-Mahjar neighbourhood of Al-Khalil, Israeli occupying forces fired live ammunition at protestors, killing Hamdi Mohammed Jawwad Al-Falah, age 22, with shots to his chest, face and legs.

Also in the West Bank, Israeli settlers continue to terrorize Palestinian civilians and destroy properties with total impunity as the Israeli occupying forces provide them with protection, colluding with their barbaric crimes. Once again, Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque, this time in the village of Urif, near Nablus, inflaming religious enmity, and settlers set fire to a Palestinian car and spray-painted racist graffiti in the village of Sinjil near Ramallah.

We reiterate our total condemnation of all of these illegal actions being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which are dramatically raising tensions and destabilizing the situation on the ground. In this regard, we reiterate our demand for a full cessation of the Israeli military campaign against the Gaza Strip, which is causing grave suffering for the Palestinian civilian population, who are also being terrorized by Israel, as the threat of an intensification of assaults, including the possibility of a ground invasion by Israel, continues to loom, causing great fear and distress among the population.

We call once again on the international community and specifically on the Security Council to act collectively and seriously to address this crisis to prevent its exacerbation and avert more loss of innocent civilian lives. In this regard, we reiterate our request for a meeting of the Security Council, which we have repeatedly conveyed since the start of this Israeli military aggression, in order for the Council to shoulder its Charter responsibilities and act to stop this onslaught against the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 442 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 November 2012 (A/ES-10/570-S/2012/854) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State

terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/572–S/2012/875

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Security Council

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 23 November 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret that I must draw your attention to ongoing violations that are being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The situation on the ground, particularly following the latest Israeli military attacks against the Gaza Strip, which caused high Palestinian casualties and massive destruction, remains extremely fragile. The occupying Power's illegal practices and provocations risk undermining the restoration of calm that we are all seeking and risk further and seriously destabilizing this critical situation.

Israel's illegal actions have included violations of the ceasefire agreement regarding the Gaza Strip, which was reached between the parties on 21 November 2012, as well as other illegal, heavy-handed measures against the Palestinian people in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, in southern Gaza, in a border area east of Khan Younis, Israeli occupying forces fired upon Palestinian civilians, killing a young man, Anwar Abdulhadi Qudaih, age 21, who was shot in the head, and injuring at least 19 people.

Today's killing adds to the tragically long list of Palestinians killed by Israel in this most recent aggression against our people in besieged Gaza Strip. In this regard, by the time of the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement, reports from the ground indicate that the Israeli occupying forces had killed more than 160 Palestinians and injured more than 1,230 people, with innocent women and children comprising a very large proportion of the casualties of this inhumane and brutal onslaught.

Even on the day in which the ceasefire was signed, Palestinian lives continued to be lost as the Israeli occupying forces launched hundreds of deadly attacks against civilian areas, including many refugee camps, in Gaza. Among those killed on that day, 21 November 2012, were more children, including, inter alia, a 2-year-old child, Abdulrahman Na'eem; a brother and a sister, Ayman and Hadeel Al-Assaly, and their father, Talal Al-Assaly; a 4-year-old girl, Ilham Nabahin; an 80-year-old man, Ibrahim Abu Nasr, and his daughter Ameera; and a 13-year-old boy, Mahmoud Abu

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Khusa. Also, today, the body of another member of the Al-Dalou family was found dead in the rubble days following an Israeli attack on their home in Al-Nasr neighbourhood of Gaza City, which killed 11 members of their family, with one family member, a young girl, still missing.

At the same time, the occupying Power continues its illegal practices throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, intensifying in recent days in particular its use of excessive and lethal force against Palestinian civilians, including peaceful protesters, and its military raids into villages, towns and cities in which the occupying forces have, every single day, been arresting and detaining dozens of Palestinian civilians, including minors and elected officials, adding to the thousands of Palestinians who remain in Israeli captivity. These arrest raids by the occupying Power have often been accompanied by forced entry into Palestinian homes and the destruction of properties.

Since the Israeli military aggression against Gaza began, reports indicate that at least 230 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel. The arrests made in the dawn hours of today have included several members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). We call for the immediate release of all of those arrested in recent days by the occupying Power, and reiterate our call for the release of all Palestinians who are being illegally and arbitrarily imprisoned, including hundreds of children and women.

We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to remain vigilant in their demands for a complete cessation of hostilities and for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations, without exception. An unequivocal message must be conveyed to the Israeli Government that its illegal actions and provocations will not be tolerated and that it will be held responsible for such actions and for any further destabilization of the situation on the ground and the consequences in this regard.

We stand at a crossroads and we urgently appeal to the international community to stand with the Palestinian people and their leadership in choosing the path of peace over the path of aggression and perpetual conflict. This is more urgent than ever in order to save and protect civilian lives and to salvage the slim prospects that remain for realizing the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 443 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 November 2012 (A/ES-10/571-S/2012/866) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations